

America's Thanksgiving is my own,
 that in my nation's gratitude I have a part
 that's real
 a part that until now I've never known.
 And, God, this year a deep humility has
 filled my heart,
 a newborn pride rings true throughout my
 soul
 because I do belong, because I have and am
 a part,
 a tiny part of one tremendous whole.
 I think I know the feeling of those first
 Americans
 who said, "We must give thanks for this, our
 land."
 I cherish now the rights that are each wom-
 an's, ev'ry man's,
 the rights I've just begun to understand.
 This year my heart has learned what all
 Thanksgiving Days are for,
 true thankfulness at last I realize,
 but, God, I'm sorry that it took the tragedy
 of war
 in other lands to open up my eyes.
 Again I bow my head but this time deep
 within me stirs
 a mighty prayer, part of one vast design,
 "God, help me make America as proud that
 I am hers
 as I am proud, and grateful she is mine!"•

HONORING MONTANA'S STUDENTS

• Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate science students and science educators in my home State of Montana.

Last week, newly released scores from the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP, often referred to as "Our Nation's Report Card," placed Montana's eighth grade science students atop the Nation. Our fourth grade students earned the 2nd highest score among States.

These scores reflect the high quality science education that Montana's teachers provide. I am proud of the dedication and hard work of Montana's teachers and students; in our technologically-advanced, information-rich society, an understanding of scientific thought and an ability to use scientific methods to make new discoveries will be critical to improving our quality of life.

We often lament our public education system and the challenges it faces. There can be no doubt that we can and must meet these challenges. The scores that I commend today, however, demonstrate two things. First, that dedicated, hard-working teachers are critical to the success of the education we provide. Second, that our public schools deliver a quality education, despite the financial challenges they face.

These scores also underscore the importance of investing in our education system. In my State of Montana, teachers have demonstrated again and again their teaching skills, their commitment to delivering a solid education, and their ability to make creative improvements in their schools and classrooms, all this, despite low wages and ever-increasing responsibilities. Unfortunately, this level of commitment will not persevere if these trends continue.

We are at a crossroads at the Federal level with respect to education policy and financial support. We know that a quality education is the key to future success as individuals and as a nation. We need to make a commitment to our students that the education they receive will provide them with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful.

Let's match the commitment that Montana's teachers and students have made to science education excellence with a commitment from the Federal level to provide the resources and support that they need.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2001, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 16, 2001, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the report of the committee on conference on the disagreeing vote of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1447) to improve aviation security, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions:

S. Con. Res. 83. Concurrent resolution providing for a National Day of Reconciliation.

S. Con. Res. 85. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1042. An act to prevent the elimination of certain reports.

H.R. 1552. An act to extend the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act through November 1, 2003, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2924. An act to provide authority to the Federal Power Marketing Administrations to reduce vandalism and destruction of property, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2001, the enrolled bills were signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) on November 16, 2001.

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3093. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 501 Bell Street in Alton, Illinois, as the "William L. Beatty Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 272. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the crash of American Airlines Flight 587.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment:

S. 1196. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on November 17, 2001, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1447. An act to improve aviation security, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 2559: A bill to amend chapter 90 of title 5, United States Code, relating to Federal long-term care insurance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1271: A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small business concerns with certain Federal paperwork requirements, to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small business concerns, and for other purposes.

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 1729: An original bill to provide assistance with respect to the mental health needs of individuals affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. 1731: An original bill to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers, to enhance resource conservation and rural development, to provide for farm credit, agricultural research, nutrition, and related programs, to ensure consumers abundant food and fiber, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committee were submitted:

By Mr. SARBANES for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.